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Hospital Technical Bulletin

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Cardiac catheterization visits

Cardiac catheterization visits are recorded when a patient is in the cardiac catheterization laboratory and is having some type of procedure performed. Only procedures related to the cardiac area are to be reported. The lab may be used to perform catheterizations and procedures on other parts of the body but these procedures are not captured on the current report. The catheterization procedure could be performed either for the purpose of diagnosis or an interventional procedure (i.e. treatment). In some cases both are done in sequence. The visits are classified by patient age (pediatric or adult), patient classification (inpatient or outpatient) and procedure type (diagnostic or therapeutic). They are recorded on the Cardiac Catheterization Visits table in Section 5 of the report (see table below)

CARDIAC CATHETERIZATION VISITS

Line No.		(1) Diagnostic	(2) Therapeutic
56	Pediatric - Inpatient		
57	Pediatric - Outpatient		
58	Adult - Inpatient		
59	Adult - Outpatient		
60	TOTAL CARDIAC CATHETERIZATION VISITS		

Note: If a diagnostic test is immediately followed by an interventional procedure on the same patient both procedures are to be counted. The rationale for this is that diagnostic procedures typically take from 45 – 60 minutes of physician and staff time, certain supplies and use of special equipment. The interventional procedure will require anywhere from 45 to 90 additional minutes of physician and staff time (and in some cases even longer), the cost of additional supplies and the use of special equipment.

When the procedures are done in sequence there are some savings. The patient is already on the table in the sequential scenario eliminating the two “set up” times of approximately 30 minutes if the procedures were performed separately. There are also some savings on supplies when the procedures are performed in sequence. However these costs are minimal compared to the physician and staff time and the fact is that two separate cardiac procedures were actually performed. Not counting one of them simply because they were done in sequence would give a distorted picture of the cardiac catheterization lab’s actual utilization.



The cardiac catheterization procedures (interventional procedures)

The cardiac catheterization procedures are captured in the next table in Section 5 titled “Distribution of Therapeutic Cardiac Catheterization Procedures” (note a more contemporary term is interventional procedures and the title will be changed for the 2009 Annual Utilization Reports. There are six specific types of procedures captured in the table and an “other” category. (see table below)

Distribution of Therapeutic Cardiac Catheterization Procedures

Complete this table if Therapeutic Cardiac Catheterization Visits are reported in column 2, line 60.

Line No.		(1) Procedures
71	Permanent Pacemaker Implantation	
72	Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty (PTCA) - WITH Stent	
73	Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty (PTCA) - WITHOUT Stent	
74	Coronary Atherectomy (PTCRA - rotablator, DCA, laser, other ablation, etc.)	
75	Thrombolytic Agents (Intracoronary only)	
76	Percutaneous Transluminal Balloon Valvuloplasty (PTBV)	
84	All Other (including Radiofrequency Catheter Ablation)	
85	Total Therapeutic Cardiac Catheterization Procedures	

NOTE: Do Not Include Any Of The Following As A Cardiac Catheterization:

Angiography - Non-coronary, Automatic Implantable Cardiac Defibrillator (AICD), Defibrillation, Cardioversion, Intra-Aortic Balloon Pump, Percutaneous Transluminal Angioplasty - Non-cardiac, Pericardiocentesis, or Temporary Pacemaker Insertion.

Notes:

Angiography - An angiogram is an imaging test that uses x-rays to view your body's blood vessels. Only record coronary angiograms, those done on the extremities are not recorded.

Multiple procedures – the Distribution of Cardiac Catheterizations table is designed to capture all of the procedures done in the lab. Thus if two (or more) distinct procedures are performed on the same visit count all procedures.

For example a patient receives an atherectomy followed by a PTCA, both procedures would be recorded (the atherectomy on Line 74 and the PTCA on Line 73).

Pacemaker / Defibrillator devices – An insertion of a combination pacemaker / defibrillator device should be recorded as a pacemaker insertion on Line 71.